

We Remember the Birth of Jesus at Christmas

FOCUS

1. During Advent we prepare for Christmas.
2. At Christmas we remember the birth of Jesus.

God sent an Angel called Gabriel to ask Mary to be the mother of Jesus. (Angels are God's messengers). Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid because God was very near to her. Mary said that she would do whatever God wanted. She would be the mother of Jesus. When the time came for Jesus to be born, Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem – a long way from their home. When they got there, the town was crowded. The only place they could find was a stable. This is where Jesus was born.

During lessons 27-30 your child had the opportunity to:

- Discuss examples of waiting.
- Become aware that John the Baptist told people to prepare for the coming of Jesus.
- Learn that Mary was the mother of Jesus.
- Discuss ways that they can prepare for Christmas.
- Listen to and reflect upon the Christmas Story.
- Become aware that we celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Before Jesus was born, people had waited a long time for a great leader to come and help them. God had promised them a leader who would be like the Good Shepherd leading his flock. The people believed this promise. They waited and they waited. Finally after a long wait the day came for Jesus to be born. God sent an angel to ask Mary to be the mother of Jesus. Mary said she would do whatever God wanted. We remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus every Christmas. In the weeks before Christmas families prepare for this celebration.

Advent is the time, in December, when we wait patiently and joyfully prepare for Christmas. Sometimes people have an Advent calendar and in anticipation count off the days until Christmas. During Advent some churches have an Advent wreath with four candles and light a candle each week to show how close we are to Christmas.

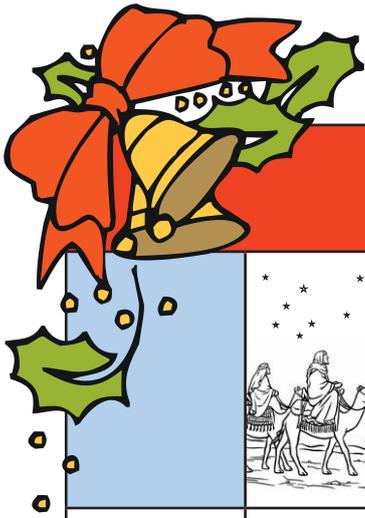
SUGGESTED HOME ACTIVITIES

These are some suggested activities to do at home with your child.

1. Read and discuss the Bible story about the birth of Jesus with your child (above).
2. Talk to your child about how special Mary is to be chosen as the mother of God.
3. Read and discuss how we prepare for Christmas during Advent (below, left).
4. Display the Advent calendar on the following page in your home. help your child to count down the days until Christmas.
5. Sing Christmas carols together as a family.
6. Take your child to a Christmas Mass, highlighting the nativity scene.



Mark off each day as you wait for Jesus.



My Advent Calendar

DECEMBER

				1	2	3
4	5	6 	7	8	9 	10
11	12 	13	14 	15	16	17
18	19	20 	21	22	23	24 
25 	26	27	28	29	30	31

To Remember:

During Advent we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus.